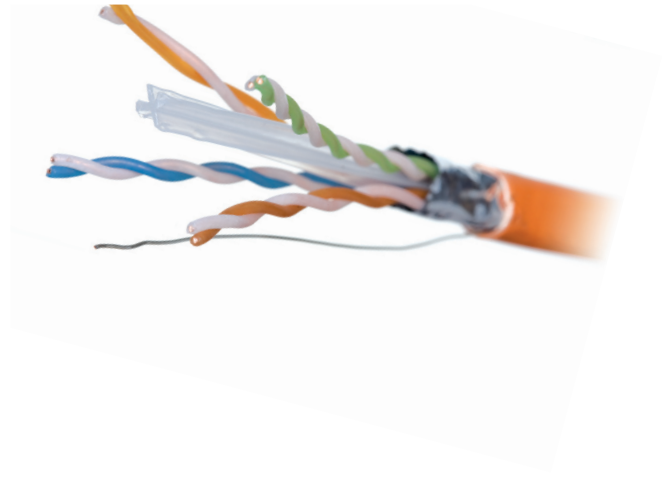


Willis Group Holdings chooses Nexans copper cabling



Global insurance leader relies on LANmark cables and connectors for UK data centre.

Willis Group Holdings plc is one of the world's leading insurance and reinsurance brokers and risk advisors. The company currently has over 400 offices on all continents and employs a staff of 17,000, including globally preeminent authorities on analytics, modelling and mitigation strategies. Immediate and reliable access to current data and tools is vital to all of the company's employees around the world. In order to ensure this access, Willis owns and operates several primary data centres.



Recent changes in Financial Service Authority (FSA) regulations created a need for additional UK data centre space and Willis therefore decided to refurbish an area of an existing building for this purpose. The site provides roughly one square kilometre of data centre space.

Redstone, a Nexans Certified Partner, took on the responsibility for managing the project. In addition to the copper and fibre cable installation, terminating and testing, Redstone also managed the installation of cable containment and IT cabinets, all 'day one' patching requirements, and the installation of cabinet power distribution units (CPDUs) and in line power units.

ZERO-RISK RELIABILITY

Willis' London site relies on Nexans copper LAN cables and the company was looking for the same quality and consistency in the new Data Centre, so Nexans was also chosen to supply the multi-gigabit data speeds with maximum reliability. Nexans LANmark Category 6A F/FTP cables were selected to provide 10Gb 'Panel to Panel' links, and from the cable distribution frame (CDF), which connects cables to the 'Meet Me Room' and IT cabinets within the Data Centre.

Nexans LANmark-6A shielded copper cables are less affected by external interference, and therefore exceed critical Alien Crosstalk parameters with considerable headroom, ensuring risk-free, reliable transmission whilst reducing onsite testing time. The high quality cabling also requires less noise cancellation and as a consequence has the potential to reduce energy consumption. The system is fully compatible with 10GBase-T Ethernet.

The cables were terminated using Nexans LANmark Cat 6A Evo connectors, and connected to patch panels at either end. Angled patch panels were utilised at the CDF to provide greater outlet density and ease of patching. Standard flat panels were utilised within IT cabinets. Nexans Category 6A harness links were installed between the CDF and remote cabinets using solid core patch leads cut in half, installed, labelled and tested.

For Redstone, the project presented a number of challenges. Cabling required apertures in the Cold Aisle Containment (CAC) walls, which necessitated offsite design and prefabrication. Also, the entire onsite installation needed to be carefully co-ordinated around other building activities, which were taking place simultaneously.

Redstone's co-ordination and relationships, together with reliable, high quality products, from Nexans ensured the project's success.

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